Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 13 and 28. Please amend Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15-19, 22, 31 and 32. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Original) A method for determining the susceptibility of a subject to infection, which method comprises:
   (i) providing a sample from said subject;
   (ii) detecting any LL-37 present in said sample;
   (iii) optionally comparing the level of LL-37 in said sample to a control sample; and
   (iv) determining the susceptibility of said subject to infection, wherein no LL-37 or a low level of LL-37 indicates that said subject is susceptible to infection.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said control sample is from a normal subject and step (iii) comprises determining whether the level of LL-37 in said sample is raised or lowered compared to the level of LL-37 in the control sample and, in step (iv), a lowered level of LL-37 indicates that said subject is susceptible to infection.

3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the infection is a bacterial infection.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein said bacterial infection is an *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans* infection.

5. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said infection is an oral infection.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 wherein said oral infection is periodontitis.

7. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said LL-37 is the proform of LL-37.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 and 5~~ claim 1 wherein said LL-37 is the mature form of LL-37.

9. (Original) A method of treating an individual to reduce the risk of infection comprising administering to a subject susceptible to infection an amount of LL-37 effective to reduce susceptibility to infection.

10. (Original) A method for determining the susceptibility of an individual to infection and treating the individual to reduce the risk of infection, the method comprising:
(i) providing a sample from a subject;
(ii) detecting any LL-37 present in said sample;
(iii) optionally comparing the level of LL-37 in said sample to a control sample;
(iv) determining the susceptibility of said subject to infection, wherein no LL-37 or a low level of LL-37 indicates that said subject is susceptible to infection; and
(v) administering to a subject susceptible to infection an amount of an antimicrobial agent effective to reduce susceptibility to infection.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the antimicrobial agent is LL-37.

12. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1 wherein said subject is being treated or has been treated using a cytostatic drugs and/or a corticosteriod.

13. Cancelled.

14. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ A method according to claim ~~13~~ 9 wherein said infection is gingivitis and/or periodontitis.

15. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ A method according to claim 14 wherein the LL-37 ~~said medicament is formulated as~~ is provided in a toothpaste or mouthwash.

16. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ A method according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 15~~ claim 9 wherein the LL-37 is the proform of LL-37.

17. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ A method according to claim ~~13 or 14~~ 9 wherein the LL-37 is a nucleic acid encoding the proform or the mature form of LL-37.

18. (Currently amended) ~~Use~~ A method according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 15~~ claim 9 wherein the LL-37 is an analogue of LL-37.

19. (Currently amended) ~~Use of LL-37 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of~~ A method of treating an infection in a subject having neutropenia, comprising administering to a subject having neutropenia in need thereof, a therapeutically effective amount of LL-37.

20. (Original) A method of diagnosing neutropenia in a subject, which method comprises:

(i) providing a sample from said subject;

(ii) detecting any LL-37 present in said sample;

(iii) optionally comparing the level of LL-37 in said sample to a control sample; and

(iv) determining whether said subject has neutropenia, wherein no LL-37 or a low level of LL-37 indicates that said subject has neutropenia.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 20 wherein said control sample is a sample from a subject not having neutropenia, step (iii) comprises determining whether the level of LL-37 in said sample is raised or lowered compared to the level of LL-37 in the control sample and, in step (iv), a lowered level of LL-37 indicates that said subject has neutropenia.

22. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 20 ~~or 21~~, wherein the neutropenia is Kostmann morbus.

23. (Original) A method of determining whether a subject having neutropenia has a type of neutropenia associated with reduced levels of LL-37, which method comprises:

(i) providing a sample from said subject;

(ii) detecting any LL-37 present in said sample;

(iii) optionally comparing the level of LL-37 in said sample to a control sample; and

(iv) determining whether said subject has a type of neutropenia associated with reduced levels of LL-37, wherein no LL-37 or a low level of LL-37 indicates that said subject has a type of neutropenia associated with reduced levels of LL-37.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 23 wherein said control sample is a sample from a subject not having neutropenia, step (iii) comprises determining whether the level of LL-37 in said sample is raised or lowered compared to the level of LL-37 in the control sample and, in step (iv), a lowered level of LL-37 indicates that said subject has a type of neutropenia associated with reduced levels of LL-37.

25. (Original) A method of treating a subject having neutropenia, which method comprises:

(i) providing a sample from said subject;

(ii) detecting any LL-37 present in said sample;

(iii) optionally comparing the level of LL-37 in said sample to a control sample;

(iv) determining whether said subject has neutropenia, wherein no LL-37 or a low level of LL-37 indicates that said subject has neutropenia; and

(v) administering a therapeutically effective amount of an agent suitable for the treatment of neutropenia to a subject having neutropenia.

26. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein said agent is LL-37.

27. (Original) A method of treating a subject having neutropenia, which method comprises administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of LL-37.

28. Cancelled.

29. (Original) A product comprising LL-37 and a cytostatic drug, corticosteroid or growth factor for separate, sequential or simultaneous use in the treatment of the human or animal body.

30. (Original) A product according to claim 29 for use in the treatment of neutropenia.

31. (Currently amended) ~~Use of LL-37 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of~~ A method of treating infection in a subject receiving or who has received a cytostatic drug, corticosteroid or growth factor, comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of LL-37.

32. (Currently amended) A product according to claim 29 ~~or 30 or a use according to claim 31~~ wherein the growth factor is G-CSF or GM-CSF.